

Trisha Kajimura

Re GM 551 Nomination to the Health Planning Council, Honolulu Subarea

February 28, 2024

1. Why do you wish to be a member of the Health Planning Council, Honolulu Subarea?

I would like to serve in this capacity to enhance representation on the council for the consideration of underserved groups within the Honolulu subarea that I am familiar with through my professional experience. These include recent immigrants, people with limited access to medical care, people experiencing homelessness, and families living in poverty.

2. How do you perceive the role and responsibilities of a HONSAC member?

Duties of the Service Area Council members including reviewing Certificate of Need Applications; making recommendations related to health planning for the geographical subarea they serve; and participating in projects or initiatives supported by the SAC which they represent.

3. Given your understanding, why do you believe you are qualified? Brief statement of skills, expertise or knowledge that would aid in your decision-making ability as a HONSAC member

My professional experience and educational background in the areas of public health and social services have provided me with relevant understanding of the needs of our community in the area of health care services. I have been advocating for health care access as part of my professional responsibilities for over 10 years and understand some of the serious challenges we face as a state.

4. What do you hope to accomplish during your term?

I would like to contribute to decisions that add high-quality, culturally responsive, affordable health services in line with the State Health Plan to communities where they are needed.

5. Name 3 qualities that best describe you that would make you stand out. How would these qualities benefit the HONSAC?

I am accountable and will fulfill the duties of the position in a reliable, informed, and timely way, keeping staff informed of my participation.

I care deeply about the health of Hawaii's communities and how social determinants of health impact access and outcomes.

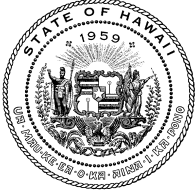
I prioritize health equity and will evaluate information first considering how it effects underserved and vulnerable communities.

6. Name one previous experience that would make you stand out. How would this benefit HONSAC?

I served as president of the Hawaii Public Health Association, which is indicative of my commitment to public health.

7. Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interest that could arise during your service? How would you overcome any possible conflicts of interest?

No – My family members and I do not work in health care. I think potential conflicts of interest are handled best with transparency – prompt reporting and then recusing oneself from any council business involving the potential conflict.



**STATE HEALTH PLANNING  
AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH - KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII  
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII

**KENNETH S. FINK, MD, MGA, MPH**  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH  
KA LUNA HO'ŌKELE

**John C. (Jack) Lewin, M.D.**  
ADMINISTRATOR

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**Senate Committee on Health and Human Services**  
**Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair,**  
**Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair,**  
**and Committee Members**

**GM 551, Gubernatorial Nominee to the**  
**Honolulu Subarea Health Planning Council**

**Testimony of John C. (Jack) Lewin, M.D.**  
**SHPDA Administrator**

**Wednesday, March 6, 2024**  
**1:00 p.m.**

1 **Agency's Position:** The State Health Planning and Development Agency (SHPDA) supports  
2 the nomination and confirmation of Trisha Kajimura to the Honolulu Subarea Health Planning  
3 Council.

4 **Fiscal Implications:** none

5 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose is for the consideration and confirmation of  
6 Honolulu Subarea Health Planning Council Gubernatorial Nominee, Trisha Kajimura.

7 Ms. Kajimura is currently the Vice President of Strategy and External Affairs at Parents  
8 and Children Together. Previously she was the Deputy Director at Hawaii Health and Harm  
9 Reduction Center, Director of Business Development and Public Relations at Sutter Health  
10 Kahi Mohala, Executive Director of Mental Health America of Hawaii and Social Policy Director  
11 of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

12 Ms. Kajimura is an active community member. She has served on the board and been  
13 President of Hawaii Public Health Association, served on the board and been Vice Chair of

1 Hawaii Alliance of Non-Profit Organizations, served on the advisory boards of the Western  
2 Region Public Health Training Center, the Public Health Training Hui, and the Hawaii  
3 Children’s Trust Fund, Hawaii Community Foundation. She has also served on the board of  
4 PHOCUSED and the Community Advisory Panel of the Office of Public Health Studies,  
5 University of Hawaii at Manoa.

6 Ms. Kajimura holds a Masters of Public Health from the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

7 She currently serves as a valuable member of the Honolulu Subarea Health Planning  
8 Council and wishes to continue her service on the Council. We ask for your support on the  
9 confirmation of Ms. Trisha Kajimura to the Honolulu Subarea Health Planning Council.

10 Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair**

**Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair**

**Wednesday, March 6, 2024, at 1:00 pm**

**Testimony in Support GM 551, Confirmation to the Health Planning Council,  
Honolulu Subarea, Gubernatorial Nominee, TRISHA KAJIMURA**

The American Lung Association is the leading organization working to save lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease, through research, education, and advocacy. The work of the American Lung Association in Hawai'i and across the nation is focused on four strategic imperatives: to defeat lung cancer; to improve the air we breathe; to reduce the burden of lung disease on individuals and their families; and to eliminate tobacco use and tobacco-related diseases. I serve as the Executive Director of the American Lung Association in Hawai'i.

**I strongly support the appointment of Trisha Kajimura to the Health Planning Council, Honolulu Subarea.**

Ms. Kajimura has been a strong volunteer for the American Lung Association in Hawai'i, both organizationally and as a private citizen. She has partnered with the American Lung Association during her successful term as the Executive Director of Mental Health America of Hawai'i as well as her executive roles at the Hawai'i Health and Harm Reduction Center, and Parents and Children Together.

Ms. Kajimura excels in the topics of public health and community social services. Throughout her career, she has shown a great affinity working for the needs of the people of Hawai'i through science-based and culturally competent approaches. Ms. Kajimura has ample experience in reaching and launching programs for underserved populations, including homeless populations, LGBTQ+, low-socio economic groups, and many others. Through her work, Ms. Kajimura has also been able to address some of the most pressing social issues in Hawai'i. While at Mental Health America of Hawai'i, Ms. Kajimura was able to increase the number of youth and adults that received direct trainings on suicide prevention, bullying prevention, and mental wellness.

I've had the great pleasure of working with Ms. Kajimura in many different roles. Most recently, I served as the President of the Hawai'i Public Health Association and Ms. Kajimura served as the President-elect. I can personally and professionally attest that Ms. Kajimura is a great community leader who others look to for steady and balanced direction. Her professionalism and her keen ability to focus on health equity are admirable.

I offer my unwavering support for the confirmation of Trisha Kajimura to the Health Planning Council, Honolulu Subarea.



Pedro Haro

Executive Director

American Lung Association in Hawai'i

pedro.haro@lung.org



## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF GM 551

**TO:** Chair San Buenaventura, Vice-Chair Aquino, & Members  
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services  
**FROM:** Ryan Kusumoto, President & CEO  
**DATE:** March 6, 2024 at 1:00 PM

**Parents and Children Together (PACT) supports GM 551, the gubernatorial nomination of Trisha Kajimura for confirmation to the Health Planning Council, Honolulu Subarea.**

Trisha Kajimura is Vice President of Strategy and External Affairs at PACT, where she leads strategic plan implementation, external coalition activity and policy advocacy for the organization. She has a 25 year professional history in Hawai'i in the public health and social services sectors which includes leadership positions in mental health, HIV prevention and care, child abuse and neglect prevention and community advocacy. She is well-qualified to weigh in on issues of health care access, social determinants of health and the challenges of families living with low-incomes in Hawai'i. PACT supports Trisha's nomination and the contribution to community that she makes through this role.

Founded in 1968, PACT is a statewide community-based organization providing a wide array of innovative and educational social services to families in need. Assisting more than 15,000 people across the state annually, we help identify, address, and successfully resolve challenges through our 20 programs. Among our services are early education programs, domestic violence prevention and intervention programs, child abuse prevention and intervention programs, childhood sexual abuse supportive group services, child and adolescent behavioral health programs, sex trafficking intervention, poverty prevention and community building programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Please contact me at (808) 847-3285 or [rkusumoto@pacthawaii.org](mailto:rkusumoto@pacthawaii.org) if you have any questions.

## Helping Hawai'i Live Well

**March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 1:00PM**  
**CR 225 & Videoconference**

**GM551, Confirmation of Trisha Kajimura to the Health Planning Council for Honolulu Subarea**

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Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and members of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services.

It is with great pleasure and without reservation that I submit this testimony in strong support of the confirmation for Trisha Kajimura to the Health Planning Council (HPC) for Honolulu Subarea.

**PRO BONO LEGAL COUNSEL**

Paul Alston

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Mental Health America of Hawai'i (MHAH), an affiliate of the renowned national organization, is a highly regarded 501(c)(3) non-profit organization serving the State of Hawai'i. For nearly 80 years, MHAH has been fulfilling its mission "to promote mental health & wellness through education, advocacy, service, and access to care" through its vision of 'mental wellness for all.' We endeavor to reduce the shame and stigma of mental illness and improve the overall care, treatment, and empowerment of those with or at risk for mental health challenges across all stages of life in Hawai'i.

Throughout her career, Ms. Kajimura has demonstrated a commitment to understanding, representing, and serving some of Hawai'i's most disenfranchised and underrepresented communities. As a member of the HPC, she would broaden representation and serve as a voice for those experiencing significant barriers like those living with mental illness, experiencing homelessness, limited English, extreme poverty, and others. Ms. Kajimura is a professional and mature individual whose articulate knowledge, innate advocacy, sensitivity, and compassion, and I'm confident you'll find her presence on the HPC a genuine asset to the core and values of the council.

I strongly urge your positive review of her confirmation and am grateful for the opportunity to submit this written testimony.

Respectfully,



Bryan L. Talisayan  
Executive Director



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services  
Senator Joy San Buenaventura, Chair  
Senator Henry Aquino, Vice Chair  
Wednesday March 6, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 225 and Videoconference  
GM 551**

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Dear Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Hawai'i Alliance of Nonprofit Organizations, I would like to express strong support for Ms. Trisha Kajimura's candidacy (GM 551) for the State Health Coordinating Council's Honolulu Sub Area Health Planning Council.

I have known Trisha Kajimura for over 10 years and have observed, with great admiration, her unfaltering dedication toward Hawaii's public health issues. During the span of her career, Trisha has contributed greatly to supporting immigrant populations, people experiencing homelessness, people experiencing mental health challenges, and families living in poverty. She has worked to increase access to healthcare for these hard-to-reach populations.

Trisha also served reliably and professionally on our Board of Directors from 2020 – 2022, bringing these vital perspectives on health and human services to Board and staff planning toward our mission of strengthening and uniting the nonprofit sector as a collective force to improve the quality of life in Hawai'i. Our member organizations provide essential services to every community in the state.

I have no doubt that Trisha will serve this council well with dedication and care. She brings a rich body of experience and insight to this position.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony in strong support of Trisha Kajimura.

Mahalo,

Lisa Maruyama  
President and CEO



Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino & HHS Committee Members:

I write in strong support of the nomination of Trisha Kajimura, MPH, to the Honolulu Subarea of the Health Planning Council. The continued criminalization of poverty and behavioral health issues continues to negatively and disproportionately impact those from under resourced communities, and I am hopeful that the Council will look for ways to mitigate the effects of the criminal legal system on the medically vulnerable.

Ms. Kajimura brings a range of professional experiences that will assist the Council in its work. She was a trusted and valued colleague at Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHHRC), where she served as Deputy Director prior to her current position as Vice President of Strategy and External Affairs with Parents & Children Together. Prior to her tenure at HHHRC, I am aware that she worked in the mental health field, including Mental Health America of Hawai'i.

At HHHRC, she was on an executive team that navigated the COVID-19 pandemic in alignment with its mission to reduce harm, promote health, create wellness, and fight stigma. During a very intensive time, HHHRC actively responded to the emerging needs of the community, including collaboration with state and local policymakers in the management of the isolation facility in Waikiki.

HHHRC also became the homelessness services provider for Regions 1 (urban Honolulu and 6 (Upper Windward Coast, North Shore) during that time, in addition to its ongoing provision of medical case management services to persons living with HIV on O'ahu and administering Hawai'i's statewide syringe access program in every major county. With the support of the Hawai'i State Department of Health, HHHRC also onboarded its mobile medical unit to assist its clinical team with the provision of wound care and other acute services for those experiencing unsheltered homelessness.

Ms. Kajimura also provides valuable perspectives in the coalitions and working groups where we've served together, including Partners in Care O'ahu and the True Cost Coalition, and is familiar with the key role that nonprofit service providers have in providing care to those in need across the state.

Notwithstanding her status as an alumna of Punahou (during the same period that I attended Maryknoll High School), I heartily support Ms. Kajimura's nomination.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Nikos Leverenz

**GM-551**

Submitted on: 2/28/2024 4:44:04 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/6/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Katherine F Davis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support your consideration and confirmation to the Health Planning Council, Honolulu Subarea, Gubernatorial Nominee, TRISHA KAJIMURA, for a term to expire 06-30-2027.

**GM-551**

Submitted on: 3/5/2024 8:57:11 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/6/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dawn Kurisu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Trisha is an experienced executive and passionate community leader. She is committed to improving the lives of many across the state and strengthening health and well-being in Hawaii. She is a thoughtful leader, collaborative partner, and has always been an advocate for social justice and inclusion. Trisha has worked in direct service, as an advocate, and as a leader. Her multi-faceted experience will lend value to her continued service on SHPDA's Honolulu Subarea Council.